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Chairman: Mr. Djumala (Indonesia)

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In the absence of Mr. Seixas da Costa Mr. Djumala (Indonesia) took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Tan** (Singapore) said that the reverberations of the terrorist attacks of 11 September were likely to be felt around the globe, demonstrating the reality of globalization and the need for global actions to tackle complex global problems. That point had been forcefully made by the Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization (A/56/1, para. 11) when he had said that such problems could only be resolved through cooperation and burden sharing among all partners. While globalization posed a challenge to developed and developing countries alike, the latter, with their lesser capacity to adapt to rapid change, suffered disproportionately more, a situation that was simply untenable.

2. There was no simple solution. Countries must resist the temptation to withdraw from globalization. Even before the terrorist attacks there had been consensus that the antidotes to the problems of globalization must be sought in globalization itself. High-income countries were already benefiting from globalization; it was now the turn of low-income countries to seek to increase their share of its benefits. Harnessing those benefits while addressing the faults of globalization called for individual and collective action.

3. Free trade was still the best weapon against poverty. By embracing the global economy China had seen its per capita income rise from one nineteenth to one sixth that of the United States between 1975 and 1995. There being no question that trade allowed an economy to make better use of its resources, her delegation supported the various regional and bilateral trading initiatives and the World Trade Organization's (WTO) liberalization efforts.

4. The forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference must launch new trade negotiations in order to maintain the momentum of liberalization and strengthen the multilateral system; however, those negotiations must offer developing countries clear prospects of benefits in areas where they enjoyed a comparative advantage. Developed countries advocating the inclusion of new issues in the agenda would need to convince the others that they were truly prompted by a desire to address systemic issues of the international trading system.

5. In dealing with the complexities of globalization, the international community's response had all too often been ad hoc. Better coordination and complementarity were needed especially within the United Nations and Bretton Woods systems. International organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were now becoming more sensitive to the need for reforms in order to address situations in the different countries. However, given the stridency of some anti-globalization rhetoric, it was important for the international community to strengthen the intellectual robustness of its policies and practices and to resist easy solutions that merely pandered to the gallery.

6. She urged the international community to avail itself of the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to forge a sustained, holistic approach, and engage the economic partners in meaningful action.

7. **Mr. Hasmy** (Malaysia) observed that it had now become clear that the inherent deficiency of the international financial system was one of the causes of the recent Asian financial crisis; the system must be corrected so as to protect the weak economies from being attacked in the name of openness and globalization.

8. The current global system did not adequately support those countries most in need of financing for development. The forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development presented a major opportunity to, inter alia, press for a new international framework for financing for development, address such issues as reform of the international financial architecture and mobilize funds for meeting the internationally agreed development targets set out in the Millennium Declaration.

9. With the advent of globalization, trade had become increasingly important for the developing countries, yet they continued to face various kinds of tariff and non-tariff barriers. There had been some heartening initiatives, such as donor funding of the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, or the

European Union's "Everything but Arms" commitment to the least developed countries or the undertaking at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to expedite market access for their products. At the same time, owing to the structural asymmetries of the various Uruguay Round agreements, it had proved difficult for the developing countries to meet their obligations and claim their rights.

10. In the preparations for the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference priority should be given to implementation issues and the mandated negotiations on agriculture and services; contentious and divisive issues should be avoided. The agenda of any future round of multilateral trade negotiations should not be overly ambitious.

11. Many of the goals agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development were proving difficult to pursue and the global environment continued to deteriorate rapidly. The burden of change had generally been understood to fall on the industrialized countries since they were the greatest consumers and polluters. While they had failed thus far to assume their share of the burden, inaction by developing countries should not be legitimized.

12. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development would provide an opportunity to deliberate on the difficulties in taking action under Agenda 21. The current overall assessment pointed to an alarming regression in implementing sustainability at both the global and national levels. The most important challenge would be to find new and innovative sources of financing. The decisions taken at the upcoming Summit would affect millions of the inhabitants of the planet, the majority of whom were desperately poor.

13. **Mr. Abelian** (Armenia) after pointing out that his Government was actively engaged in the regional integration initiatives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), said that given that sustainable development and economic growth depended on political stability and on the creation of an enabling environment, it was particularly important for a country in transition to reform its bureaucratic system of management.

14. His Government was committed to attracting foreign direct investment, and as a result, the investment climate was improving. Cognizant that information and communication technologies (ICT), renewable energy and bioelectronics presented new development opportunities for countries in transition, it was also committed to modernizing its system of governance. Countries in transition hoping to benefit from globalization opportunities should also be entitled to request international assistance in dismantling the private communication monopolies that hampered development.

15. **Mr. Sabbagh** (Syrian Arab Republic) emphasized the need to reform the international economic, financial and trading system with a view to achieving balanced economic growth and also the need to adopt a more serious approach to solving the external debt problem of the developing countries by lowering the debt of the middle-income countries and cancelling that of the least developed. There was no connection between debt relief and official development assistance. He commended those countries which had attained or even surpassed the target set for such assistance.

16. In reviewing the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s the General Assembly should consider how best to enhance support for priorities and initiatives relating to Africa. Political and financial support for those initiatives must be mobilized through, inter alia, enhanced partnerships with African Governments.

17. Globalization had profoundly affected international relations and had further marginalized the developing countries and widened the technological gap between them and the developed countries, especially in the area of information and communication. The developing countries lacked the advanced technology needed for economic development in the modern world.

18. The importance of pooling international efforts, taking full advantage of the role of the United Nations and establishing true partnership to make globalization more geared towards bringing about development and economic and social justice could not be over-emphasized.

19. The International Conference on Financing for Development would be extremely useful if it contributed to the solution of development finance problems and the implementation of the commitments made at the various United Nations conferences held during the 1990s.

20. He stressed the importance of full implementation of Agenda 21, especially the pledges made by the developed countries, based on the principle of joint and several responsibility, to provide financial resources to help developing countries fulfil their commitments and to transfer technology to them on a preferential basis and on easy terms. In addition, the World Summit on Sustainable Development must provide an opportunity to strike a balance among the different components of sustainable development, bearing in mind that the eradication of poverty and the achievement of economic development constituted the highest priorities for developing countries.

21. All hoped for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East at the start of the twenty-first century, in order that the region might turn its attention to genuine development.

22. **Mr. Sun** (Cambodia) said that North and South must unite their efforts to ensure that the benefits of globalization were equally distributed and to mitigate its negative effects. Developing countries must be allowed to participate fully and fairly in the management of global economic, financial and trading systems and the full potential of South-South cooperation must be exploited alongside South-North dialogue as part of a new development paradigm that addressed the relationship between globalization and development.

23. Lack of financial and other resources were a major obstacle to development efforts, as were trade barriers and other factors. The forthcoming Conference on Financing for Development would provide an opportunity to address some of those challenges.

24. The negative impact of globalization on least developed countries was a particular cause for concern; in that connection, his Government welcomed the successful outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries and called for assistance to such countries in order to enable them to keep up with technological change. Finally, in view of the links between socio-economic development and policies of environmental protection, the commitment of the international community to Agenda 21 must be reinforced. The United Nations must, for its part, continue to play a central role in promoting cooperation for development.

25. **Mr. dos Santos** (Mozambique) said that the benefits of globalization must be made available to all mankind. The continued marginalization of developing countries must be addressed as a matter of priority, including through the timely delivery of necessary resources. The forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development would be instrumental in reshaping the world economic order and making it more equitable, by inter alia, coming up with a sustainable solution to the debt crisis and reforming the international financial architecture. The forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference should, likewise, lead to a transparent, non-discriminatory and equitable trading system. The main challenge was to ensure full implementation of existing agreements together with preferential treatment for poor countries. At the World Summit for Sustainable Development, participants should assess the implementation of Agenda 21 but steer clear of any attempt to renegotiate it.

26. The United Nations played a fundamental role in mobilizing and coordinating funds for development at the international level and in applying those resources in recipient countries. As noted in the Millennium Declaration, poverty eradication should be the main objective of United Nations operational activities for development. The valuable expertise of the United Nations development apparatus should be made available to Member States and all other stakeholders for the preparation of poverty-eradication and development projects and programmes.

27. By ensuring national ownership of development projects, the United Nations system and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in particular had gained legitimacy in recipient countries as well as enhancing operational activities for development. For a development project to be successful, it must provide for the involvement of local communities at every stage for the main point of the exercise was to ensure that local communities took charge of their own destiny and development. Such was the approach adopted in the New Africa Initiative; all that was required was adequate support from the international community.

28. **Mr. Loizaga** (Paraguay) observed that the terrible events of 11 September had had an impact on the global economy and it was the international community's responsibility to respond energetically and with solidarity in order to mitigate the damage and create a world in which terrorism would have no place.

29. The Millennium Declaration must continue to guide the Committee's work. The forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development would be an unprecedented opportunity for an in-depth and comprehensive examination of a complex issue that affected many areas. For many countries, including his own, it was the critical issue of the day.

30. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development would give States an opportunity to renew their commitments. The purpose of that meeting was to assess the implementation of the goals established at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to identify the problems encountered and to suggest possible solutions in keeping with the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The Summit was not meant to reopen negotiations on Agenda 21, but to assess its implementation, and new items should not be introduced into the deliberations.

31. The eradication of poverty was one of the most difficult battles in which the international community was engaged. Yet it was urgent to create a favourable climate for human development, and that meant that, as the Secretary-General had observed in his report on the work of the Organization (A/56/1, para. 129), economic growth in developing economies must accelerate. However, the developing countries were disadvantaged to varying degrees and their situations and levels of development and their current capacities for integration into the global economy differed enormously. The current system of international trade was at once the main engine for growth and the chief obstacle to it. Until the developed countries and the more advanced developing countries opened their markets to the products of the less advanced countries, and eliminated non-tariff barriers and subsidies, no attempt to reduce poverty and spur growth would be successful, and the kind of multilateral trade and financial system envisaged in the Millennium Declaration would not come into being.

32. All discussion must focus on how to direct the process of globalization in such a way as to ensure that the benefits thereof were shared by all, so that all enjoyed a standard of living consonant with human dignity.

33. **Mr. Briz-Gutierrez** (Guatemala) said that today, more than ever, the international community must redouble its efforts to promote development around the world; even prior to the events of 11 September, the development outlook had been anything but promising. The greatest challenge currently facing the world was how to ensure that, in a context of low or even negative growth, globalization was not perceived as an obstacle to development, rather than as a source of opportunities. Those concerns could be addressed through discussions with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. Obviously, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit for Sustainable Development would provide abundant opportunities for addressing those issues as well.

34. Finally, he expressed concern at the declining role of the United Nations in the area of operational activities, and the continuing shortage of core resources available to the United Nations Development Programme.

35. **Mr. Penjo** (Bhutan) said that development partners must implement fully and in a timely fashion the commitments they had undertaken at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, particularly in the areas of resource mobilization, external debt and trade. Effective follow-up and review of such implementation, both within the Economic and Social Council and through the establishment of an office of a high representative of the Secretary-General on least developed countries, landlocked least developed countries and small island developing States, would also be crucial.

36. The International Conference on Financing for Development offered an opportunity to address an issue that was of paramount importance to the achievement of the development and other goals set by the global conferences of the past decade. The issue of financing permeated discussions in every arena of development, ranging from poverty eradication, combating HIV/AIDS to environmental conservation. All aspects of financing for development must be addressed in a comprehensive, integrated and concrete manner.

37. A new consensus on the effective mobilization of resources at the national and international levels and the adoption of measures to implement that goal could provide substantial impetus in achieving sustainable

development. The forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development — to which his Government attached the highest importance — must undertake a thorough review of the progress and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21 and chart a course with concrete commitments and renewed vigour for the next decade.

38. His delegation fervently hoped that the political will and resolve which had prevailed during the resumed sixth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Bonn, would continue and that the Kyoto Protocol would come into force before the World Summit on Sustainable Development took place.

39. **Ms. Jarbussynova** (Kazakhstan) said that the infamy of the recent terrorist attacks on the United States had underscored the essence of globalization, which was the world's fragility and interdependence. Extremism and terrorism were spawned by economic underdevelopment, constant poverty, and lack of education and health care. Not surprisingly, the world's most wanted terrorist leader was being hosted by Afghanistan, a country with a long history of civil war, poverty and domestic political conflict. The Committee could usefully contribute by focusing on the economic aspect of the problem.

40. While globalization had enhanced the development of the world economy, it had also helped increase the gap between developed and developing countries. She stressed the need to strengthen normative, legislative and organizational frameworks in the interests of a stable and predictable world economy, adding that one way to facilitate the developing countries' integration into that economy was to provide sufficient development funding; the International Conference on Financing for Development could play an important role in that. By the same token, official development assistance (ODA), a major funding source for developing countries, had not only been continuously decreasing, but was hedged about with increasing conditionality. She hoped the developed world would reach its target of allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for ODA.

41. Her country was proud of its success in winning true independence and international recognition and had set development of the economy as its priority. It was now focusing on the construction of oil and gas pipelines. It considered the legal status of the Caspian Sea to be fundamental, since it hoped to develop hydrocarbon resources contained therein.

42. Kazakhstan, faced new challenges characterized by the new security conditions in the region and new threats, including land disputes, Islamic extremism and drug trafficking in neighbouring countries. Lack of concerted action to address unemployment, poverty and inequality, regional disparities, the low education and economic growth rates could lead to social and economic instability in the region. Kazakhstan had, however, developed a vigorous national anti-poverty strategy and would begin implementing, in 2002, a State programme for fighting poverty and unemployment.

43. Her country was counting on the United Nations continued cooperation regarding consultative services and technical assistance in the context of the Organization's efforts to help transition economies integrate in the world economy and appreciated the support it was receiving for strengthening economic cooperation in the Central Asia region. In that connection she mentioned the joint Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) which had been devised by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and which encompassed all the region's priority issues. In preparation for Kazakhstan's admission to the WTO, measures were being taken to bring domestic legislation into line with WTO rules and principles. She pointed out however, WTO would have to be reformed in order to really liberalize trade relations.

44. As a landlocked country, Kazakhstan assigned particular importance to the development of a transit transport system in Central Asian States. Its environmental problems had ceased to be of purely national concern; tremendous resources would be required to deal with the ecological disasters it had experienced. In conclusion, she called on every country to adopt, in the form of bilateral and multilateral treaties, legislative and administrative measures relating to cross-border water resources and their management.

45. **Mr. Osio** (Nigeria) said that the multilateral trading system needed to be open, more equitable and more responsive to the needs of developing countries. The developed countries must dismantle the

discriminatory quotas and other trade barriers which they imposed on exports from developing countries, especially in the textiles, agriculture and clothing sectors which accounted for much of the export earnings of developing States. Such earnings could significantly contribute to funding development projects in those countries. His delegation therefore hoped that the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference would focus not only on the development dimension of trade, but also on every other aspect of the multilateral trade negotiations.

46. Official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment played a critical role in helping to meet the development needs of the developing countries. Given that most international investment flows were channelled through the private sector, his delegation expected that that sector would take its place among the relevant stakeholders at the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development and work out effective modalities for public-private partnership and more equitable investment flows.

47. The international community must continue to search for a lasting solution to the persisting external debt burden of the developing countries. Possible alternatives included a more beneficial and well-funded Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, a debt moratorium and even outright cancellation of debt for middle-income countries.

48. Turning to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, he noted that the basic principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and concern for how best to enable developing countries to implement their own programmes would be a useful approach for the success of the Summit. Moreover, given that the policies and decisions of the Bretton Woods institutions had an impact on all nations, it would be more equitable if decisions on global financial, monetary and economic matters were made more participatory, transparent and development-centred.

49. **Ms. Chenoweth** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that, although the right to food was recognized by all countries in the world, hunger continued to cause widespread suffering. It was now apparent that the target set at the 1996 World Food Summit of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people who suffered from hunger, was unlikely to be met. As a consequence, Heads of State and Government had agreed to meet from 5 to 9 November 2001 to take stock of the situation, outline the measures they had envisaged to adopt in 1996, and take the decisions necessary to accelerate the implementation of measures aimed at halving the number of the world's hungry.

50. Noting that FAO viewed the HIV/AIDS pandemic not just as a health issue but as a problem of critical importance for development in general, she said that her organization was prompted by increasing evidence that HIV/AIDS intensified existing labour bottlenecks in agriculture, worsened the problem of malnutrition and further complicated the problems of rural women. Finally, she said that FAO was playing an active role in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.